European Community Commentary

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Eliminating technical barriers to trade: the Community's programme

Two obstacles inhibit the free flow of goods and services within the European Community. The first is the obvious one of tariffs and quota restrictions. The other is the so-called non-tariff barrier to trade. Tariff barriers are being progressively reduced, and will be phased out in a few years. Non-tariff barriers remain, and now constitute the biggest single obstacle to the achievement of a truly unified market. The Commission's approach to removing one aspect of these hindrances to trade – the so-called technical barrier – is considered below.

Non-tariff barriers

The EEC's efforts to eliminate non-tariff barriers started some years ago, within the scope of Article 100 of the Treaty of Rome, but the task has proved extremely complicated and time-consuming, and it has taken on average four years' hard labour to reach agreement on each of the relatively few items of legislation so far adopted in this field. To remove all the non-tariff barriers as yet identified would, it is estimated, require over 200 separate items of legislation; only 40 odd have been adopted by the Council of Ministers to date.

A non-tariff barrier exists where regulations relating to the marketing of goods and services differ in different Member States and this difference inhibits the free flow of goods and services between Member States. Non-tariff barriers can arise in various fields: for instance, in public purchasing policy or in Customs documentation. Our concern here, however, is with the 'technical' barriers to trade which arise from the statutory regulations imposed by Governments to ensure that manufactured products meet particular safety, consumer-protection and environmental-protection standards. A whole mass of this type of legislation has accumulated in the nine Member States of the Community, specifying what conditions goods must meet before being put on the market. If the technical requirements laid down in this legislation vary from one country to another, or if the method of enforcement is such as to make life more difficult for importers, the result is a technical barrier to trade.

The Community's method of removing a technical barrier to trade is to obtain the agreement of the nine Member States to a Directive 'harmonising' the various national regulations (ie, embodying the requirements held by consensus to be essential) on a particular product or product sector. Once adopted by the Council of Ministers, the Directive has to be implemented by Member States within a specified period of time, superseding, or as an alternative to, their existing regulations.

The Commission normally establishes a working group to assist it in preparing each draft Directive. The usual practice is to invite all the Member States to nominate experts to serve on this working group; and representatives of European industry, and of any other group which the Commission feels has an important interest, are also sometimes invited. The Commission is not bound by whatever the working group may recommend: it is for the Commission itself to decide what proposals to put forward. But the Commission has found from experience that its proposals are unlikely to get through the Council machinery unless they have the support of the Government representatives on the working groups.

The Commission then formally submits its proposal to the Council of Ministers, though at this stage it does not go anywhere near the Ministers themselves. First the proposal is referred for advice to the European Assembly and to the Economic and Social Committee, which have solely recommendatory powers. When this advice has been received, the proposal is examined with a fine-tooth comb by officials of the Member States, who haggle over it and amend it as necessary in order to obtain a text which is acceptable to all the Governments concerned. At the end of this process the draft may well have been changed out of all recognition.

Most of the discussions between officials of Member States on technical barriers take place in the Council 'Group on Economic Questions' or in ad hoc sub-groups established to deal with particular Directives. From there the text is forwarded to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. If the text has been agreed at the Group on Economic Questions level, the higher-level committees accept it without discussion; but if there are still points in dispute, it is their task to resolve them by some means or other. Only after unanimous agreement has been reached at the official level are the proposals normally put in front of the Council of

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Ministers themselves. They are then usually adopted without discussion.

Within Whitehall, the Standards, Weights and Measures Division of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection is the central co-ordination point for this aspect of the Community's industrial policy in so far as it deals with industrial products. Detailed negotiation of industrial-product Directives is carried out by the responsible regulatory Department (eg, the Department of the Environment for motor vehicles) in close liaison with the relevant Whitehall industry-sponsoring Division. The Food Standards Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for foodstuffs Directives.

The Community's deadlines

Included in the EEC Industrial Policy proposals* approved by the Council last December was an ambitious programme for eliminating all identified non-tariff barriers to trade by the end of 1977; ambitious because it entails the adoption of up to 25 Directives a year. Scheduled for adoption by the first deadline of 1 July 1974 were the following 15 draft Directives, on which the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee had already given an opinion:

Motor vehicles
Interior fittings (behaviour of the steering mechanism)
Safety glass
Electrical points for trailers

Measuring instruments
Medical thermometers
Precision weights
Prepackaging of liquids
Graduated bottles

Electrical equipment
Interference from portable tools
Interference from fluorescent lighting
Electrical equipment for use in explosive atmospheres

Fertilisers

Cosmetics

Wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors
Specifications and components, particularly rear-view mirrors, field of vision and steering systems

Reinforced plastic tanks for the carriage of dangerous substances

Aerosols

The state of play to date is briefly as follows. The proposals relating to motor-vehicle steering mechanisms, fine precision weights and tractor rear-view mirrors and field of vision have either been adopted or are ready for adoption. Consideration of those on plastic tanks and electrical connections for trailers has been deferred by agreement. The proposals on aerosols and electrical equipment for hazardous atmospheres are still under discussion, but are expected to present no insurmountable problems. Those on thermometers, cosmetics and fertilisers are also under active discussion, but are unlikely to be ready for adoption for some time. The draft Directives on measuring bottles and the prepackaging of liquids – which are concerned, among other things, with the method of declaring contents – pose problems for the UK; for in this country prepackaged products are labelled to indicate their minimum content, whereas the draft Directive on prepackaging of liquids incorporates the system – indication of the average content – which prevails in the majority of the Member States of the Community and which has been endorsed by the FAO-UN organisation Codex Alimentarius.

On the other proposals – the two on radio interference and the one on motor-vehicle safety glass – it is proving difficult to reach a consensus. The disagreement on the first two centres on a classic barrier to trade: the certification of products. Some Member States want compulsory testing and certification of appliances by an approved body; the others are content to rely on a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, on the basis that compulsory test-house testing adds unnecessarily to the cost of the product. The debate on the motor-vehicle safety-glass Directive revolves round the relative costs and benefits of laminated and toughened glass for windscreens. A possible compromise that could be envisaged would be for the Council to agree on harmonised technical specifications for the two kinds of glass, and leave Member States free to enact national legislation regulating the kind of windscreen to be fitted in cars for use in their territory. The barriers to trade caused by different specifications for glass would be eliminated but the equally important barrier caused by having to fit different windscreens for different markets would remain.

The Commission's approach to harmonisation

Finn Olav Gundelach, leader of the Danish team in the pre-accession negotiations in 1972, is the European Commissioner with responsibility for the 'internal market', which encompasses the general alignment of the laws of the Member States, removal of technical barriers to trade, harmonisation of Company law, patent matters and freedom of establishment for the self-employed. He is also responsible for the administration of the Customs Union.

Commissioner Gundelach has won praise for his rejection of the Commission's earlier tendency to harmonise for harmonisation's sake. He has, for example, put paid to such ideas as Eurobread and Eurobeer. In an intervention in a European Assembly debate on the free flow of goods and services in the Community, earlier this year, he gave a concise and interesting exposition of the Commission's present approach to harmonisation. The text is reproduced in the following section of this article.

His preference wherever possible is for 'optional' harmonisation, which permits the continued sale of products meeting national requirements while establishing a parallel set of 'harmonised' EEC requirements. Manufacturers who opt for the EEC requirements can sell their products, without let or hindrance, throughout the Community, which is all that is necessary for free trade. 'Total' harmonisation means that only goods meeting the harmonised EEC requirements may be sold throughout the Community. For many product sectors, it can be argued that total harmonisation restrains competition, restricts consumer choice and impedes innovation. However the UK has accepted it in the case of labelling dangerous substances (where a proliferation of confusing labels would clearly be nonsensical) and for such other product sectors as cosmetics (where the 'total' approach has been agreed to from the point of view of consumer protection).

The Commission has also accepted in principle the policy of 'reference to standards'. It has agreed, wherever possible, not to duplicate the work of the international standards-writing organisations like ISO and CEN, but to 'refer to' existing standards for the technical content of Directives – a sensible approach, provided that these organisations can keep pace in producing suitable standards.

Commissioner Gundelach's statement on harmonisation

'Mr. President, the full text of the question is: 'To what extent does the Commission feel that approximation of legislation should be used to improve the free flow of goods and services within a single internal market?'

Basically the answer is, to the extent to which such adjustment of laws is absolutely necessary for the development of a free market, and only if this objective cannot be reached by other means. There is no intention of carrying out adjustment of laws or so-called harmonisation for harmonisation's sake.

Before I elaborate on this answer I would like to emphasise the importance of the freedom of movement for goods and services in the EEC's internal market. It is in itself a good thing that consumers should have the greatest possible choice and that producers should come up against competition and stimulus from foreign goods, and that the freedom of movement should allow the production resources of the Community to move where they are most needed.

This objective cannot be attained by creating uniform goods. On the contrary. It must also be emphasised that the freedom of movement for goods is one of the fundamental prerequisites for later implementation of economic and monetary union. There are certain conditions required for the establishment of an economic and monetary union, including a certain similarity in economic structures and in economic development, which in turn require mobility of production factors and openness towards the outside world, in this case the other Member States.

If these prerequisites do not exist there will be no point in taking joint decisions at a later point in time on economic policy to be applied throughout the Community, on for example how best to guarantee full employment, a high rate of economic growth, stability of prices and a degree of equilibrium in balances of payment.

I shall continue by referring to the steps which must, in the opinion of the Commission, be taken to guarantee and extend the freedom of movement of goods. It will be evident from this that adjustment of legislation is only one of the means under discussion.

* See *Official Journal C117*, 31 December 1973.

I have chosen to try to give an account of the Commission's basic attitude in this respect by concentrating on the free movement of goods. This does not, however, mean that the philosophy and the main principles which I am trying to explain do not also apply to other spheres such as freedom of establishment, bank legislation, hairdressers, book-keepers, insurance or other instances which I shall not directly refer to. However, I would like to emphasise . . . . that they are covered by the same main principles. . . .

The framework for the internal market is formed by the customs union. Since the enlargement of the Community we have seen that the customs union does not function entirely satisfactorily. The procedures which will have to be completed before goods can move entirely duty-free from country to country continue to be very complicated, and the provisions which are a condition of exemption from duty – eg, rules on origin – are, if not restricted in their formulation, at least extremely complicated. This means that there are unnecessary impediments to trade in the form of administrative difficulties, the cost of which has to be borne by the citizens and business.

. . . It is not the Customs administrations themselves or the Community's administration which creates the problems. They are created by a series of political decisions which may concern the common agricultural policy, trade policy, systems of preferences for developing countries, etc. It is the implementation of these political decisions which as a rule creates the complicated provisions in respect of goods and customs.

The Commission's policy is to give high priority to the simplification of these provisions. Such simplification should take place partly by means of simplification of customs procedures, including the adjustment of customs legislation in the Member States – the Commission submitted a programme on this, partly in July and partly in the month of December 1973 – and partly by ensuring that administrative complications are cut down as far as possible in decisions on common agricultural policy, trade policy preferences for developing countries, etc. Moreover a proposal on this is to be submitted to the Council at the earliest opportunity, with the support of the nine Member States' customs administrations.

There are also a number of other hindrances to free movement of goods, represented by the so-called 'technical impediments to trade'. The gradual abolition of these is incorporated as an essential part of the decisions on industrial policy taken before Christmas by the Council on the Commission's proposal. For very good reasons all the Member States have adopted regulations for the protection of public health, the safety of the population and the environment. It has often been the case that one country has taken the initiative before the others in one sphere or another. These diverse measures have thus been implemented in different ways from one country to another with the result that each country's production is based on different regulations. Thus it is not the regulations themselves which are an impediment to trade but the differences between them. Impediments to trade have arisen because producers are forced to abide by different specifications according to which country they wish to sell their goods in.

Finn Olav Gundelach is the European Commissioner with responsibility for removal of technical barriers to trade.

In a speech to the European Assembly earlier this year he said that 'it is not the Commission's policy to harmonise for harmonisation's sake, to order countries to change their legislation for reasons more or less connected with an ideology of integration. It is not this Commission's policy to force on the populations of the Member States a drab uniformity which they have not expressed a wish for and which has, moreover, no basis in the treaties.'

The text of the speech is given in this article.

Let me emphasise that it is in the interests of the Communities that countries should take measures for the purpose I mentioned a moment ago. At the same time it is in the interests of the Communities that steps should be taken to find a way in which they do not create unnecessary hindrances to trade. Moreover the Communities have drawn up – or are in the process of drawing up – proposals for common measures on a number of subjects, for instance the protection of the environment. In as far as work on the development and preservation of the free market can support the realisation of these other common measures it should naturally do so.

This programme, aiming first and foremost at the abolition of technical impediments to trade, has in my opinion been wrongly understood by public opinion to be a 'harmonisation programme'. The process simply has little to do with what public opinion has come to understand by harmonisation. As I have already said, it is not this Commission's policy to harmonise for harmonisation's sake, to order countries to change their legislation for reasons more or less connected with an ideology of integration. It is not this Commission's policy to force on the populations of the Member States a drab uniformity which they have not expressed a wish for and which has, moreover, no basis in the treaties. It is not this Commission's policy to propose the adjustment of legislation except in cases where practical experience has shown this to be necessary in order to avoid or remove substantial impediments to the free movement of goods or services – this also with respect to the protection of the environment, public health and agricultural interests. In those cases where the Commission does find it necessary to propose harmonisation of legislation it will try to find the method which requires the least possible harmonisation, in other words, the most flexible method – and the method which will give consumers the greatest possible freedom of choice.

Political circles and public opinion – and this again has been mentioned here this morning – have been primarily interested in so-called harmonisation of manufactured food articles. This is understandable. This is the sphere in which the most illogical situations are to be found in the form of protective measures, and where public opinion can most easily assess the range of the Commission's proposal.

However, at this point in my speech I would like to point out that the Commission, in the spring and early summer, withdrew the chief part of its proposal on this subject, partly in order to be able to take account of conditions in the new Member States, and partly in order to find a form which would go further towards meeting the general criteria which the Commission wished to base its proposal on. . . .

In December the Council passed a programme proposed by the Commission on the removal of impediments to trade. At first sight it may seem that the programme only includes a series of new deadlines but closer study reveals that the new deadlines are a consequence of the fact that the Commission has chosen to tackle a number of existing problems in a new way.

The main feature is that the present proposal was based on total harmonisation whilst the future proposal is to be based as far as possible on optional harmonisation or other appropriate methods.

The possible methods are:

Firstly, Member States shall accept goods which comply with the control requirements of the other country. In this case there will not be any form of adjustment by the EEC of national legislation governing the activities of producers. This method can be combined with minimum standards. Unfortunately there seems to be too little confidence between the authorities and Member States to enable this method to be applied as often as the Commission would like.

A variation of the first method is the case in which goods are produced which are characterised by the fact that each single article is manufactured to different specifications. An example of this would be pressure vessels. It is the Commission's opinion that the drafting of EEC specifications for this type of product would incur unjustified work. The Commission therefore proposes in such cases a conditional acknowledgement of control and permits the authorities in each single state to exercise the form of control which is provided for in the importing country.

It is clear that this solution has nothing to do with harmonisation. It is clear that harmonisation in this case would be meaning-

less. On the other hand the method does allow producers the great advantage that they can have control carried out in their own factory by a controller who is of the same nationality, thus avoiding, amongst other things, language problems.

In both variations of the first method an attempt has been made to ensure free trade without the necessity of adjusting legislation.

The other main method is *optional harmonisation*, which means that Member countries *shall* allow goods to be imported if they comply with established EEC regulations; such goods will also be exportable. Existing national legislation on the organisation of production can be maintained. As with the proceeding method it is possible for both consumers and producers to maintain national and local traditions, which there would be no sense in suppressing on the basis of the implemention of EEC rules.

One example that can be mentioned is the situation concerning the rules on beer. There would be no sense in laying down EEC rules for the brewing of a 'Eurobeer' for the 7 per cent of production which is exported, suppressing a number of local specialities. On the other hand, it cannot be accepted in the long term that the consumers in one single country should be debarred from the possibility of making acquaintance with products which other countries' authorities allow to be produced.

Another example is bread. It stands to reason that regulations hindering the freedom of movement of such day-to-day goods cannot be objective. On the other hand, the people in the various countries cannot be expected to accept that the production of local specialities should no longer be permitted in order to make possible the export of standardised products.

The aim of *horizontal harmonisation* is that there should be general principles or methods whereby the problems related to many categories of goods are solved. For example, some countries have safeguarded the interests of the consumer by drawing up positive lists of additives. Other countries have negative lists. Some countries have regulations stating that prepacked goods in certain quantities should have an average content; others have regulations laying down the minimum contents. If a flexible solution could be found for these problems, consumers would have greater certainty when choosing products.

The last method, *total harmonisation*, implies replacement of existing regulations in national legislation by common EEC regulations. This method has been proposed in cases where, for example, it is necessary to guarantee a minimum level of protection or certainty for the biological breakdown of chemical substances or with respect to car fittings, etc. The execution of the contemplated directive on the safety of cars should be useful for trade but even more for safety on our roads, without there being any thought of any kind of restriction in the supply of models – there has been no talk of a 'Eurocar'. The method is also used for categories of goods requiring exact specifications, but where the characteristics of the product are otherwise unchanged. It will be obvious from my speech that this method, total harmonisation, will only be proposed in the future where it is strictly necessary or where no other possibilities are applicable. Thus the sphere to which the present harmonisation method is applied has been considerably reduced. On the other hand it would now seem that in cases in which the Commission chooses the path of total harmonisation we are all interested in principle in reaching agreement on the fact that there are no feasible alternatives.

Mr. President, may I conclude by summing up the Commission's policy as follows:

> Whenever the Commission chooses the method of adjustment of legislation – total harmonisation – it endeavours, in its proposal, to find solutions which are most flexible for the national producers, which give the greatest possible freedom of choice and certainty to consumers and which respect existing technical conditions and those contemplated in the future to the greatest possible extent;
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> The Commission's attitude to the problems is described in the programme for the abolition of technical impediments to trade which the Council passed in December 1973. In this connection the Commission has announced its intention to implement basic changes in the proposal already made for the abolition of technical impediments to trade, etc. – not least in the sphere of food.
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> Mr. President, the word 'harmonisation' no longer covers the process by which the Commission endeavours to encourage the free movement of goods and services.

EEC Bankruptcy Convention Advisory Committee

The Committee set up by the DTI in 1973 (the Department of Trade is now the responsible body) 'to consider the terms of the Draft EEC Bankruptcy Convention and to advise the Department upon the effect of the implementation of the Convention in its present terms and to recommend such modifications as they consider necessary and practicable' is now well into its task of seeking the views of relevant bodies throughout the United Kingdom. The members of the Committee – all drawn from trade organisations and professions likely to be immediately affected by the Convention – are:

Mr. K. R. Cork FCA – Chairman

Mr. C. L. Dodd – Solicitor

Mr. P. G. H. Avis – Assistant General Manager, Midland Bank Ltd.

Mr. M. Hunter QC

Mr. P. H. Armour – Chartered Accountant (Scotland)

Professor A. E. Anton – Scottish Law Commission

Mr. T. H. Traylor is Secretary to the Committee.

The European Community has been working towards an EEC Bankruptcy Convention for some years, and a panel of experts had reached large agreement on a draft Convention before the UK and the other two new Member States acceded in 1973. The Six's draft in general leaves the national bankruptcy laws of each Member State untouched, but provides for the recognition by other Member States of decisions taken under national laws, lays down rules for avoiding conflict of jurisdiction and introduces a very limited area of uniform law. Basically it seeks to avoid the multiplicity of bankruptcies (and the consequent disputes as to entitlement to and participation in the remaining assets) which could arise where a bankrupt has places of business in several or all of the Member States of the Community. It does so by ensuring that a bankrupt in the Community is covered by one 'blanket' bankruptcy, which would be administered by one Trustee or Liquidator – under the laws of the Member State in which the bankrupt has his centre of administration – and which would be valid throughout the Community. The Draft Convention dovetails in with the Draft Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Judgements, and it covers all forms of insolvency (individuals, partnerships and companies). Insurance companies are, however, specifically excluded from its scope.

Following the enlargement of the Community, experts from the three new Member States joined the relevant Working Group to bring themselves up to date with the thinking and intentions underlying the Draft Convention and to consider the many technical problems which it poses. No moves towards adopting the Convention will be made until the new Member States have fully considered its implications and prepared their negotiating positions. The EEC Bankruptcy Convention Advisory Committee was formed to proffer advice to the Government in this connection, and it is already consulting such bodies as the Chambers of Commerce, the TUC and the banks. Other organisations wishing to make their views known should contact the Committee's Secretary at Room 005, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8LL.

An English translation of the original French text of the Draft Convention is being prepared.

Simplifying the Community's trade procedures: SITPRO's role

On 28 June trade-facilitation organisations from five Member States of the Community (Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland and the UK), and representatives of a similar organisation now being set up in Germany, met in London, as guests of the United Kingdom facilitation body – the Simplification of International Trade Procedures (SITPRO) Board – to consider simplification of trade documentation and procedures within the EEC. The Community has only recently turned its attention to the cause of trade facilitation. The United Kingdom, however, has long been working – through SITPRO – to build up the international co-operation necessary to implement its principles. Below we place SITPRO's activities in perspective in relation to international trade facilitation in general and the efforts now being made to promote facilitation in the Community in particular.

Trade facilitation

Preparing all the documentation necessary for shipping goods from works or warehouse to an overseas customer, and subsequently receiving payment, is estimated to cost the exporter alone an average of about £13 for each consignment exported. This is the figure arrived at by the London Chamber of Commerce as a result of a survey it conducted; and the cost is the same whether the consignment consists of a case of clay pipes valued at £20 or a complete computer at £200,000. Since the number of consignments shipped from the UK in 1973 was something of the order of six million, the total cost to the nation last year was a staggering £78 million – 0.8 per cent of the value of all our exports or the equivalent of a whole year's exports to Malaysia.

Documentation is the cross every exporter has to bear – an unfortunate but indispensable element of world trade, without which exporting goods and getting paid for them would be impossible. It is a cross best endured, however, when the trade procedures are not archaic and the paper work is not excessive – otherwise documentation not only imposes a severe financial burden but hinders the smooth movement of goods. The degree of hindrance is impossible to quantify, but without doubt it is considerable; and the massive expansion of world trade since the War has not made the situation any easier. World exports have increased five-fold since 1950, placing a heavy strain on international transport and communications. So far as the physical transport and delivery of goods are concerned, the threat of the whole system's snarling up has been met by improvements in transport technology (eg, air freight, containerisation, roll-on/roll-off, unitised loads); but these developments have not been matched by corresponding improvements in trade procedures and documentation. Although the introduction of aligned documentation series has in many ways speeded up documentary processes, it has not, to any large extent, reduced the actual amount of paper required. The exporter still struggles to supply a mass of information to sellers, buyers, port operators, carriers and Government departments, and the information demanded, and the form in which it is required, change more often than not as frontiers are crossed. The obvious way out is to simplify and rationalise to the point where documentation interferes as little as possible with the flow of trade. The solution is easier defined than achieved, though the principal trading nations are very aware of the problem and are beginning to tackle it. Not surprisingly – since our economic health depends on our exports – the United Kingdom has taken the initiative in this. The lead comes from SITPRO.

Lord Thorneycroft, Chairman of the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board.

SITPRO

The SITPRO Board was set up in 1970 to work towards what has now become known as international trade facilitation: 'to guide, stimulate and assist the rationalisation of international trade procedures and the documentation and information flows associated with them'. It is funded by the Department of Trade through a grant in aid and hence enjoys a good degree of independence within its terms of reference. The Board is chaired by Lord Thorneycroft. The other Board members (13 at present: see list on page 6) are drawn from a wide range of interests, including shipping, carrying, forwarding, banking, insurance and Government. The Board operates through two main Working Groups – one concerned with all aspects of procedures and documentation (in the context mainly of paper systems) and the other with automatic data processing. Ad hoc sub-committees deal with particular subjects requiring specialist attention. The permanent staff is small, for SITPRO's policy is to think out the problems and formulate ideas, and then, as far as possible, to implement its proposals through the relevant national and international organisations.

Nationally, SITPRO has already made encouraging progress. Its efforts to promote the aligned documentary system based on the Economic Commission for Europe's trade-document layout key are beginning to bear fruit. Adoption of the new National Standard Shipping Note – a standard aligned document, identical for all UK ports and designed to replace an infinite variety of port receipts and other papers – is not long away. Abolition of the CD6 Exchange Control form has eliminated half a million forms annually. And in the automatic-data-processing field, SITPRO has benefited from the progress achieved at London Airport with the LACES system. LACES – the most advanced computerised inventory and Customs-control system in practical operation in the world – has drastically cut the time taken to release incoming goods. Before LACES, goods air-freighted from, for example, Hong Kong had to wait five days to be documented and cleared. LACES cut the delay by more than half.

SITPRO's internationally oriented work on ADP is focused on the preliminary examination of methods of message construction – the INTERFACE (Internationally Recognised Format for Automatic Commercial Exchange) project and the UCRN (Unique Consignment Reference Number) system.

INTERFACE is concerned with standards enabling any system designer involved in international trade to design an information system for his own organisation capable of passing data economically to and from the systems of other organisations using the standards. The results of SITPRO's preliminary work on INTERFACE – which was pursued in full accord with the Economic Commission for Europe - are to be published shortly. The UCRN studies are aimed at establishing an agreed procedure for the identification of (1)the elements of data flow associated with a consignment, and (2) the goods themselves, so that the information relating both to data flow and movement of goods can be processed using computer techniques.

Also on the international level, SITPRO is supporting the extension of the 'aligned' document series to include an aligned airway bill, and hopes to obtain international agreement to the complete standardisation of some other documents which are slightly different in each national series. It has suggested that the Economic Commission for Europe sponsor an early ad hoc meeting to review the operation of national series of aligned documentation based on the ECE layout key, and to consider prospects for improvement, including further standardisation.

SITPRO's international role dominates its activities (after all, since trade is international, SITPRO's work is nothing if not also international), and the Board takes pride in having been a leader in building up channels of consultation and action over the whole field of international trade facilitation. It has taken initiatives in various international institutions, including the International Chamber of Commerce, the Customs Co-operation Council, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Air Transport Association and the United Nations. It has worked very closely with comparable facilitation bodies in the USA, and it has contributed considerably to the establishment of SITPRO-type organisations in Canada, Japan, France, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands.

The United Kingdom's accession to the EEC, however, created a new situation, and over the last year or so the Board has readjusted its priorities to include a major effort within the Community.

International trade facilitation within the EEC

The Community had been established some years before the concept of trade facilitation had acquired any general standing, or even understanding, and the Economic Commission for Europe's layout key did not then exist. When, therefore, the United Kingdom became a member of the Community in 1973, British exporters found that they had to exploit the advantages of the Common Market via forms and procedures which were not only unfamiliar but completely contrary to the principles advocated by SITPRO. The day-to-day practical effects of EEC membership on trade procedures aroused complaint and criticism. And the situation was not improved by the fact that it was just those firms which had introduced the ECE layout key into their internal documentation which were the most seriously inconvenienced. It was unfortunate too that the complications reached an extreme in the application of Community rules of origin to trade with EFTA. The UK was, of course, an EFTA member before joining the Community, and had done much to help liberalise and reform EFTA procedure and documentation. The contrast with the unaligned EEC documents and legalistic Community procedures was, therefore, exceptionally glaring. Disillusionment was greatest in medium-sized and smaller firms which had been looking forward to the opportunities offered by a Common Market dedicated to the elimination of traditional frontier formalities.

As a result of all this, SITPRO's whole UK programme – particularly in aligned documentation – suffered a serious loss of credibility, and the Board had to give urgent priority to remedial action. The aim was to carry out a detailed inquiry and analysis of the situation before making a direct approach to the Commission and, whenever possible, to make common cause with fellow facilitation organisations in other Member States. Much of 1973 was, therefore, taken up by research into pressing problems and the preparation of suggestions for practical improvements. SITPRO also held bilateral discussions with the national facilitation bodies of Belgium (SIPROCOM), Holland (SITPRONETH), France (SIMPROFRANCE) and Denmark (DANPRO), and had preliminary informal talks with senior Commission officials. These led to a more formal assembly of the national facilitation committees (collectively known as the COMPROS), and subsequently, in January 1973, to Lord Thorneycroft's leading a combined delegation of Community trade-facilitation organisations for discussions with European Commissioner Gundelach and senior colleagues from the EEC Customs Union Administration. The aim was to examine problems in current EEC documentation and procedures, and to arrange for joint consultation and action, in order to effect improvements as soon as possible. Discussion centred on rationalising and simplifying Community requirements relating to movement certificates, the transit regime and imports from third countries.

In Commissioner Gundelach the COMPROS found that they were preaching to the converted*; and it was at this point that SITPRO's anxieties began to diminish. Commissioner Gundelach showed himself acutely aware of the incompatibility between the intentions of the Treaties and the deficiencies of the Community's documentary and procedural systems. He not only expressed support for the key facilitation principles put to him by the COMPROS but produced an extensive list of specific improvements which he had already submitted to the Council of Ministers as requiring immediate attention. And he made it clear that the Commission as a whole was now committed to support for facilitation reaching beyond the elimination of current difficulties to a broad constructive effort occupying a proper place in the Community's overall trade policies. In view of Commissioner Gundelach's most helpful attitude, the SITPRO Board decided to remit responsibility for day-to-day EEC problems to its Procedures and Documentation Working Group, and to concentrate attention on the pursuit of broad EEC facilitation objectives through improved and extended co-operation with other facilitation bodies inside the Community. A Director with sole responsibility for this activity has been appointed, and Commissioner Gundelach will be given every assistance and support in achieving the improvements in Customs procedures, the alignment of key documents and the rationalisation of rules of origin applications which SITPRO considers necessary for a progressive facilitation policy.

Co-operation between the COMPROS now rests on solid foundations. In London in June they briefly considered a proposed combined export/entry transit document, set up a small working group of experts to examine the document in depth, spent some time in preparing for the next meeting with Commissioner Gundelach, confirmed their belief in the value of the ECE document key as the basis for their facilitation activities, and generally agreed on the need to press forward with exploring the role of automatic data processing in international trade procedures. Their next meeting will be in Brussels in December, with SIPROCOM as hosts.

On balance, therefore, SITPRO looks foward with much greater confidence than a year ago to a solution to the problems of EEC documentation and procedures.

More information from the Secretary, SITPRO, 26/32 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0RJ. Tel: 01-222-3673/4/5.

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Mr. R. Dale, SITPRO Office.

*Commissioner Gundelach's statement on harmonisation to the European Assembly is relevant: see pages 1–4 of this issue.

Improving the Community's beef régime

In his statement on renegotiation to the Council of Agricultural Ministers on 18 June (for text see *European Community Commentary* No. 13, pp. 4-6), explaining the UK's 'ideas and proposals for the improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy and certain related matters', Frederick Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, suggested that the Community's beef production problems could be overcome if the Community reverted to the position of a year or so ago, when intervention was used only as a last resort. To ensure the producer an adequate return not derived wholly from the market, he proposed replacing permanent intervention by: (1) a variable premium financed by FEOGA and paid on slaughter, or, where conditions permit its effective administration, on liveweight sale for eventual slaughter – a method of sustaining producers' returns which he thought would have the effect of preventing undesirable fluctuations in production; and (2) a system of production subsidies offering permanent incentives to the rearing of calves for beef production. He also proposed the introduction of a simplified import régime giving reasonable access to imports from third countries while adequately guarding the Community market.

On 15-16 July the Council of Agriculture Ministers met in Brussels with the main aim of finding some answer to the problems of the Community's beef sector. The introduction of the direct-premium system advocated by Mr. Peart was one of the remedial measures agreed on. The Minister commented on the results of the Council in a statement to the Commons on 17 July. The statement is given below.

'I should like to inform the House of the main decisions reached by the Council of Agriculture Ministers at its meeting on 15-16 July, in Brussels.

'The main business before the Council was the difficult situation on the beef market throughout the Community. The Council agreed on a number of measures designed to strengthen the beef market and to assure reasonable returns to producers. Much the most important of these measures was the authorisation of the system I myself proposed for direct premia to be paid to beef producers on finished cattle. The purpose of these premia is to sustain producers' returns and to offer an incentive to them to market beef cattle in an orderly manner through the autumn and winter. The maximum rates rise from £9.24 per head in August to £32.34 in February. Arrangements for March and April will be decided following a review in December. The cost will be borne by the Member State from August to October, but thereafter Community funds will bear a proportion rising from 50 per cent in November to 70 per cent in February.

'The premia will be subject to reduction or suspension only if market prices rise far enough to make this desirable – there is no automatic cut-off price. The Government intend to introduce this scheme with effect from August 5, and I shall announce full details as soon as possible.

'The effect of these premia will be to assure beef producers of a reasonable return, and to offer a real incentive to phase marketings in such a way as to maintain stable market conditions. They amply fulfil the intention I announced to the House on June 26 of giving our beef producers an assurance that, over a period, their returns would not fall below about £18 per live cwt. for clean cattle. If the industry responds to the assurance which these premia will provide, average returns over the period till March should substantially exceed this figure. Permanent intervention still remains on option – but these premia represent an alternative way – in my view a far better one – of supporting the farmer while marketing the beef. In this sense they can fairly be said to represent a major change in the Community's beef régime and a new approach to this sector of the Common Agricultural Policy. They will sustain producers' returns by direct assistance, while enabling consumers to buy beef at prices they can afford.

'The Council also decided on special measures to encourage beef consumption in the the Community. First, they noted the Commission's intention of authorising member countries to arrange for the purchase of frozen intervention beef, at reduced prices, by non-profit-making organisations. Secondly, they agreed to authorise member countries, at their discretion, to operate schemes under which those in receipt of social benefits could receive financial assistance towards the cost of buying fresh beef in the shops. The authorised rate of assistance is likely to be about £1 per head per month: 50 per cent of the cost would be borne by Community funds. The Government are considering whether to operate this scheme in the United Kingdom. Thirdly, the Council decided to make aid available from Community funds for campaigns to promote consumption of beef and other meat.

'Finally, it was decided to suspend temporarily the issue of licences for imports from third countries, except for the quantities covered by the GATT levy-free quota; and to suspend temporary imporation for processing and re-export. Licences which have already been issued will enable some beef imports to continue. The Council also noted the Commission's intention to put intervention beef into cans, so as to provide a stockpile for use in future shortage and as food aid to the hungry people of the world. We think there are opportunities for much of this beef to be canned in the United Kingdom and I shall be pursuing this with the industry.

'I regard the outcome of the Council meeting as very satisfactory for both producers and consumers in this country. It is a good omen for the further negotiations we intend to carry out in this field.'

Labelling textiles: explanatory guidelines

'Labelling Textiles – Explanatory Guidelines on the Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1973' is now available from HMSO as Standard Book Number 0 11 511077 1 (price 22p; 25½p including postage).

The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations require all textile items produced in this country — with a few exceptions, but including some items not normally regarded as textile products (eg, warm linings of footwear and gloves, coverings of umbrellas and sunshades, textile parts of camping goods) — to bear the names of the fibres they contain. The Regulations stem from an EEC Directive* which obliges Member States to enact legislation ensuring that all textile products are labelled in a uniform way, so providing consumers with standard point-of-sale information, and eliminating the barrier to trade which could arise from differences in marking requirements between Member States. They came into operation on 12 January 1974, but, to give the manufacturing and distributive trades sufficient time to adapt, will not be fully enforceable until 12 January 1976. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the local Weights and Measures Authorities using powers under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

The **Explanatory Guidelines,** which were prepared by the Department of Industry in consultation with representatives of consumer bodies, Local Authorities and the textile and clothing manufacturing and distributive trades, are intended to help those concerned to decide how best to conform with the Regulations.

* See article in *European Community Commentary* No. 3, pp. 3-4.

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities

by Anne Woodward, Europe Industry and Technology Division, Department of Trade

In *European Community Commentary* No. 2, pp. 1-3, we published an article on the 'consultative' bodies of the Communities, in which the role of the Economic and Social Committee was briefly outlined. The present article goes in more detail into the role of the Committee and the work it does.

The Committee's role

The Economic and Social Committee (the ESC) is a Community body, established under Article 193 of the Treaty of Rome – the Treaty setting up the EEC – and Article 165 of the Euratom Treaty (the European Coal and Steel Community, the oldest of the three Communities, has its own Consultative Committee). It exists to assist the Council of Ministers and the Commission in a consultative capacity, so that, in some ways, its role is similar to that of the European Assembly so far as the scrutiny of legislation is concerned, although, unlike the Assembly, it is not strictly an 'Institution'. But the original intention was to allow for the involvement of various economic and social interests in the decision-making process of the Community by setting up a Committee of distinguished people with experience in a wide range of non-political fields. The consultation of non-political interests through a formal body, so closely integrated into the decision-making process, has no direct parallel in the UK, though institutions of this type do exist in other Member States.

Membership and organisation

The full Committee is elected every four years, though individual members may serve more than one term. Committee members are chosen by the Council of Ministers from a list of nominees provided by the Governments of the Member States, but they serve in a personal capacity and are expected to act independently of Governments, and of any organisation with which they may be connected. Since the accession of the UK, Ireland and Denmark, the total number of ESC members has risen to 144. The UK – like France, Germany and Italy – is entitled to 24 places.

ESC members are divided into three equal groups: Group I, Employers; Group II, Employees; Group III, 'Other Interests'. Groups I and II are drawn from a wide range of industries. The 'Other Interests' Group is made up of representatives from education, medicine, consumer groups, and – as its title implies – any major interest not represented by the first two Groups. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are elected by the Committee from each Group in turn, and they serve for two years. The present Chairman is Mr. A. Lappas of Germany, who represents the Employees Group.

For the detailed study of problems the ESC is divided into specialised Sections – nine in all – covering the principal fields covered by the Treaty. They each have 30-60 members, who deal with all matters within a specific area, such as agriculture, transport and communications or social questions. The Executive Committee of the ESC – the 'Bureau' – has 21 Members. It prepares, organises and co-ordinates the work of the Committee, and one of its most important functions is to decide which Sections should handle a particular question. The Committee is served by a Secretariat, headed by a Secretary-General and divided into four Directorates. The Secretariat is not connected with the Commission or national Civil Services, and is recruited directly by the ESC.

The work of the Committee

The Committee's main role is to provide advice on draft Directives and Commission Communications for the Council. Article 198 of the Treaty of Rome says the Committee must be consulted by the Council and the Commission 'where the Treaty so provides' (ie, where it is mentioned in Sections on specific areas of policy) and 'may be consulted by these institutions in all cases in which they consider it appropriate'. The ESC may also ask to be consulted on matters of interest to it. In practice, this means that the Committee is asked for Opinions on nearly all draft instruments and Community policy statements. In addition it has recently won the right to initiate discussions on new subjects. One example of this is a study it is making of the situation of small and medium-sized firms in the Community, which it will, it is expected, submit to the Commission with suggestions for Community action.

The ESC looks in some detail at each proposal put before it, though it tries not to adopt the same approach as the consultative committees which the Commission or Council may set up to look into policies or instruments in a particular policy area, and which are made up of experts in that subject alone. When a draft instrument or policy statement is first sent to the ESC it is allocated to the relevant Section by the Bureau. At this stage the Section often appoints a Study Group of 9-12 representative members, with its own Chairman and Rapporteurs, to look at the proposal in some detail and prepare a draft Opinion (and its allied report) or a study. The ESC brings in experts to help it with matters of technical detail, and interested organisations are often invited to advise. Members of Study Groups are also allowed to bring advisers of their own choice with them. In the UK's case, factual background material may be provided by a trade association or organisation that agrees to help, and, where a UK member needs to take an adviser with him, the same organisation can often provide one.

Draft Opinions, reports or studies then pass through a meeting of the Section and finally go to a plenary session of the Committee (these are held about once a month). A document may be amended at any stage and can be sent back to the Study Group for further discussion. However, if an Opinion is unanimously agreed by the Section it is normally passed by the plenary session without discussion. The final version of the Opinion is delivered to the Council and the Commission, with any relevant information, such as substantial minority views, and is then published in the 'C' Series of the *Official Journal*.

The volume of work done by the ESC is certainly great, and is increasing all the time. In 1973, for example, 75 Opinions and five other texts (reports, studies and initiatives) were produced. The range of work done is indicated by some of the subjects the ESC gave Opinions on at its 118th Plenary Session in February 1974. These included the Commission Memorandum on improving the CAP, the Commission Communication to the Council on preparation of a 'global concept' for the forthcoming Multilateral Negotiations (Agricultural Portfolio) and the proposed Council Regulation setting up a Community guarantee scheme for private investment in non-Member countries.

It is fairly difficult to assess precisely how much effect these Opinions have on Community decisions, though it is certain they are taken into account by Council decision-making bodies. The Economic and Social Committee has felt, however, that it would like to be able to assess better the effectiveness of its decisions. With this aim in mind, it has recently appointed a Director-General, Mr. R. Louet, who is in charge of the Press, Information and External Relations (with professional organisations and other institutions) Departments of the Secretariat. He is responsible, among other things, for promoting and analysing the 'follow-up' of Opinions. Reports are prepared by the Secretariat, and

passed to all Committee members, to show the effect of Opinions, reports, etc, forwarded through the Council and the Commission.

The Committee has also been trying to increase its powers and influence in other directions and has recently secured some changes in its Rules of Procedure from the Council. These include the Right of Initiative and the right to have its decisions published in the *Official Journal*. In a recent Opinion on its own position in the institutional machinery, the ESC has also indicated that it hopes for a further improvement in its status and for the strengthening of its role in the Community decision-making process, because of its importance as the only body under the Treaties able to represent all categories of economic and social activity.

EEC – your questions answered

Below we publish answers to some of the questions of general interest which businessmen put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit in the past month.

The Unit was set up specifically to assist firms which are finding difficulty in obtaining information on a particular aspect of trade with other Member States of the Community. It can be contacted by a telephone call to 01-222 7877, Ext. 4301 (six lines), or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Q. The export pricing policy of my company has been upset by the rate of inflation in Western Europe. Is there a statistical source which would help me to monitor price changes in EEC countries?

A. A study of price indices will give you an indication of the rate of price changes. The monthly OECD publication **'Main Economic Indicators'** contains tables of producer and wholesale price indices for certain commodities arranged on a country basis, and also a table of consumer price indices. The quarterly supplement to this publication gives a more detailed breakdown of price indices for selected OECD countries.

'General Statistics', the monthly publication of the EEC Statistical Office, publishes indices of consumer and wholesale prices for all Member States, and also gives producer prices for agricultural goods and a price index for imported goods.

The United Nation's **'Monthly Statistical Bulletin'** records wholesale prices of selected commodities by country and indices of consumer prices; and bi-annually, in February and August, contains a table of retail prices relating to the cost of living of UN officials throughout the world. Companies may find the table useful when calculating the expenses of employees living or travelling abroad.

'International Financial Statistics', the International Monetary Fund's monthly publication, gives a page of economic indicators for each member country, including data on consumer prices, export and import unit values, and export prices of some commodities.

All the above publications can be ordered through any branch of HMSO, and can be consulted at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248-5757, Ext. 368). The Library also holds the national statistical publications of the EEC countries, which, in some cases, include detailed price statistics.

Q. I wish to ring the European Commission in Brussels. Could you tell me the number?

A. All telephone numbers in Belgium changed on 19 July 1974. Details of the new numbers are contained in a booklet available free of charge from the Post Office International Division: dial 100, ask for Freephone 2013, then order the booklet.

The Commission's numbers are now 010 322 735 00 40 or 010 322 735 80 40. The address remains rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Brussels.

Other numbers in Brussels which may be of use are:

UK Permanent Representative to the European Communities, Rond-point Robert Schumann 6, 1040 Brussels:
010 322 736 99 20

Council of the European Communities, rue de la Loi 170, 1040 Brussels:
010 322 736 89 40

British Embassy, Britannia House, rue Joseph II 28, 1040 Brussels:
010 322 219 11 65 or 010 322 218 17 09

British Chamber of Commerce for Belgium and Luxembourg, Britannia House, rue Joseph II 30, 1040 Brussels:
010 322 219 07 88

Permanent Conference of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EEC, avenue de Tervuren 14, 1040 Brussels:
010 322 734 33 29

UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community), rue Ravenstein 4, 1000 Brussels:
010 322 513 45 62

ORGALIME (Association of Trade Associations in the Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering Sectors throughout Western Europe), rue des Drapiers 13, B-1050 Brussels:
010 322 511 34 84

BEUC (European Bureau of Consumers' Unions), rue Royale 27, Brussels:
010 322 219 13 39

Q. My company is negotiating a contract for the supply and construction of an industrial plant in Belgium. Is there a standard or model form of contract which we have to use by EEC law?

A. There are no Community regulations governing the drawing up of industrial contracts: the law applicable to such contracts is a matter for negotiation between the parties concerned.

However, you may be interested to know that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has produced a document which provides guidance for firms who are seeking advice on the drafting of contracts. The guide covers the supply and erection of industrial plant as well as building and civil engineering work. It lists the various contractual provisions which may be adopted, and indicates the problems which such provisions may raise and the consequences which they may entail. A large section of the text is devoted to the various forms of contract available, including separate contracts, comprehensive contracts and turnkey contracts. Other areas covered include guarantees, penalties and termination clauses, applicable law, and procedures for the settlement of disputes. There are also references to various related publications of the Economic Commission for Europe, including **'General conditions for the supply and erection of plant and machinery for import and export'** and **'General conditions of sale**

Continued overleaf

for the import and export of durable consumer goods and of other engineering stock articles'.

Although the guide gives factual information on procedures, it does not advise on which procedures to adopt or which contractual provisions to apply. Its purpose is to provide a descriptive memorandum rather than a comprehensive legal text.

'Guide on drawing up contracts for large industrial works' (UN sales No. E 73 11E 13) is available from HMSO, P.O. Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Price 66p (69½p).

The Community's Business Co-operation Centre

Community firms seek British business partners

The Commission of the European Communities set up the Business Co-operation Centre last year to encourage co-operation between firms in different Member States wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the Community markets. Co-operation is defined as the pooling of one or more activities of the partner firms; for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the Centre's help will be a ed to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. Armed with this information, the Centre will then search its files for a suitable partner, and, if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate with no names mentioned a summary of the firm's requirements to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the Community.

It is as one of the Centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation below. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the Centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, 15-17 rue Archimède, B-1040 Brussels. The Centre makes no charge for its services. All inquiries are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties.

Reference BRE/2361/47
Belgium publishing firm (school books) and printing firm (specialist printing for books, magazines and brochures); 85 employees; turnover F45 million; new plant and equipment; seeks British or Dutch partner (printing works or firm specialising in graphic arts) with 50-150 employees, with a view to co-operation in:

Technology: joint research for new investment (eg, photocomposition).
Production: pooling of certain activities and or creation of new production units.
Marketing: joint study and investigation of commercial markets, common purchasing.

A financial contribution, including investment by the partner, desired.
Languages: French, English.

Reference BRE/2276/61
German wholesale company dealing in road construction and earthmoving plant, general building plant, implements and supplies, electric and other tools, spares and after-sales service, and pollution-control equipment; operating in Bavaria (four establishments) and Austria; turnover DM50 million; 250 employees; seeks fairly large manufacturer of pollution-control equipment, hoisting and conveying plant, heavy conveying plant or leisure equipment in Britain, France, Italy or the Netherlands for co-operation in marketing and after-sales-service activities in its own market (possibly also manufacturing under licence); majority or minority holding in German company required.
Languages: German, English.

Reference: BRE/282/22
Two Luxembourg companies; one company acting as an agent supplying iron and steelworks with spare parts (springs, couplings, tuyeres), hardware (machines, locomotives, converters, crucibles) and industrial products (cast iron, ferro-alloys, dolomite, fluorspar, etc.); the other company engaged in selling iron and steel and industrial goods, mainly in the Community market (sheet, strip, coil, all kinds of wire and other forms of iron and steel); 25 employees; turnover in excess of LF1000 million; seek integration with German, British or French company; directors prepared to act as commercial and financial consultants.
Languages: French, German, English.

Reference BRE/2273/371
French company; four European subsidiaries engaged in the mass production of temperature-control components; turnover F45 million; 600 employees; seeks co-operation with German, Dutch, British and Italian firms with turnover F5-25 million in order to set up joint selling organisation in Europe promoting a single range of products; participation in partner company desirable.
Languages: French, English, German.

Reference BRE/2352/314
French limited company engaged in manufacture of metal structures, metal furniture, iron working; general contract work; turnover F74 million; 450 employees; seeks European partners similar or larger size for co-operation in R & D, technological know-how, production and marketing; possibility of financial participation by partners.
Languages: English, German, Italian.

Reference BRE/2394/316
Irish company; part of international group; manufacturers of aluminium beer casks and kegs and stainless-steel pressure vessels up to 25,000 litres capacity; selling to Irish and UK breweries; also making world patented spiral staircases supplied to architects, institutions and civil engineers throughout British Isles; company turnover of £1¼ million; 180 employees; seeks partners in same sectors in Germany, France and Great Britain, same size or larger, for co-operation in technology, production and marketing on the basis of exchange of products and distribution facilities.
Languages: English.

Reference BRE/2206/325
French company (société anonyme) specialising in continuous handling; with design office, manufacturing, selling and installing simple or complex installations of all sizes; 80 employees: turnover F7.5 million; seeks firm of similar size in Britain, Italy, Germany or Benelux engaged in complementary activities (eg, storage equipment, overhead conveyors, plastic-coating ovens, strapping and labelling machines) with a view to co-operation in R & D, marketing, sales and management.
Languages: French, English, Italian.

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period 15 June-26 July 1974. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

1. Parliamentary publications

House of Commons. Second Report from the Committee on European Secondary Legislation etc, together with the proceedings of the Committee. Session 1974. (0 10 218375 9). 16 pp. 14p (17p).

Cmnd. 5657. European Communities. Treaty Series No. 44 (1974). Agreement between the Member States of the ECSC and the ECSC, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Sweden, of the other part (with Final Act and Exchange of Letters), Brussels, 22 July 1972. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 January 1974. It was previously published as Miscellaneous No. 46 (1972). Cmnd. 5155. (0 10 156570 4). 32 pp. 22p (25½p).)

Cmnd. 5663. European Communities. Treaty Series No. 45 (1974). Agreement between the Member States of the ECSC and the ECSC, of the one part, and the Republic of Austria, of the other part (with Final Act and Exchange of Letters), Brussels, 22 July 1972. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 January 1974. It was previously published as Miscellaneous No. 43 (1972). Cmnd 5131. (0 10 156630 1). 32 pp. 22p (25½p).)

2. Non-Parliamentary publications

Department of Industry. Labelling Textiles. Explanatory Guidelines on the Textile Products (Indication of Fibre Content) Regulations 1973. (0 11 511077 1). 24 pp. 22p (25½p).

3. Publications sold but not published by HMSO

Commission of the European Communities

The Community oil sector medium-term forecast and guidelines. (0 11 933991 9). 88 pp. £1.16 (£1.23).

Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 1/74. Proposal for a regulation of the Council on the European Co-operation Grouping (ECG). (Submitted to the Council by the Commission on 21 December 1973.) (0 11 933939 0). 32 pp. 36p (40p).

European Communities: Monetary Committee: Monetary Policy in the Countries of the EEC: Institutions and Instruments, 1972. (0 11 934035 6). 436 pp. £4.30 (£4.53).

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Statistical Yearbook of the AASM, 1973. (Associated African, Malagasy and Mauritian States). (0 11 934042 9). 264 pp. 84p (99p).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OECD Economic Survey: Yugoslavia. April 1974. (92 64 11183 2). 68 pp + 2 folded inserts. 50p (57p).

Anthony Dumont elected President of the Community's Consumers' Consultative Committee

At the third meeting of the Community's Consumers' Consultative Committee, on 21 June, Anthony Dumont was elected President in succession to the late Mrs Groes. Mr. Dumont is a lawyer who specialises in consumer law. He is Chairman of the British Consumers' Association, and Vice-President of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs.

Opening the Committee's proceedings, Signor Scarascia-Mugnozza, Vice-President of the European Commission, stressed the important role played by the mass media in informing consumers of their rights and defending their interests. He also indicated that the European Commission department responsible for consumer protection policy would soon be enlarged.

The Committee urged the Council of Ministers to give their verdict on the Preliminary Consumer Protection Programme (see *European Community Commentary* No. 11, pp. 1–2, 4) by the deadline of 31 July 1974. The meeting also held a wide-ranging discussion on the effect of the present energy situation on consumers, and the Committee is planning in the near future to publish its opinion on the Commission document defining the new Community energy policy.

European Commission officials meet equipment services suppliers

The British Overseas Trade Board recently supported a visit to the UK by Mr. Josef Gibbels and Mr. William Bennett, Head and Deputy-Head respectively of the European Commission's Equipment Services. The visit was to establish better liaison with the Government export services department and to meet British suppliers of office machinery, equipment and furniture, and computer equipment.
The photograph shows Mr. Bennett addressing a meeting of suppliers, and, from right to left, Mr. J. de Fonblanque, Office of the UK Permanent Representative to the European Commission, Mr. Gibbels, and Mr. A. R. Titchener, Director of Co-ordination of Export Services at the British Overseas Trade Board.

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

An extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 **Industrial Production** (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy[4]	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC[3,4]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.8	0.3	23.5	36.5	0.7	12.6	4.4	18.2	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.5	0.1	9.0	14.0	0.2	4.9	1.7	7.0	36.4	*48.4*	*13.1*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	100	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	107	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	115	106	109	104	116	102	108	*108*	*110*
1973	115	115	124	114		114	125	111	116	*118*	*130*
1972 1st quarter	107	97	112	103	107	103	113	97	105	*103*	*106*
2nd quarter	109	102	113	105	106	104	115	102	107	*107*	*108*
3rd quarter	107	104	116	105	109	102	116	103	108	*109*	*111*
4th quarter	114	108	120	110	114	108	120	106	112	*113*	*116*
1973 1st quarter	115	115	121	113	121	105	122	110	114	*115*	*124*
2nd quarter	114	112	123	114	119	115	123	110	116	*117*	*128*
3rd quarter	114	114	126	113	118	118	125	111	117	*119*	*131*
4th quarter	118	120	126	116	121	117	129	110	118	*119*	*135*
1974 1st quarter		125	127	115		119	130	104		*117*	*132*
1973 January	115	109	120	112		105	122	108	113	*115*	*122*
February	115	116	121	116		104	123	111	115	*116*	*122*
March	114	118	120	113		104	121	112	114	*116*	*127*
April	114	111	119	114		112	123	109	114	*116*	*126*
May	117	113	125	113		114	123	109	116	*117*	*129*
June	112	112	125	114		118	123	110	117	*118*	*129*
July	113	115	127	109		120	122	111	116	*119*	*129*
August	115	114	127	115		117	126	110	116	*119*	*131*
September	114	115	124	116		118	127	111	118	*119*	*132*
October	116	116	126	115		118	130	112	118	*119*	*135*
November	123	126	127	116		117	129	111	119	*119*	*136*
December	116	117	123	116		117	128	106	117	*119*	*134*
1974 January	129	125	128	114		124	130	100	116	*118*	*134*
February	126	128	128	117		119	131	104	118	*117*	*133*
March		121	126	114		115 (e)	131	107	117	*116*	*131*
April			126 (e)	114 (e)				109		*117*	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+5.1	+4.2	+0.5	Nil	+1.7	+1.7	+1.3	−0.6	−0.3	*−1.7*	−0.6
On a year earlier	+7.2	+9.0	+5.6	+0.6	+6.1	+14.4	+7.1	−3.6	+2.9	*+0.6*	−7.1

[1]Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.
[2]Mining and manufacturing only.
[3]Excluding Denmark.
[4]Revised figures for Italy from beginning of 1973.
(e) Estimated

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 2 **Unemployment** seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Den-mark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Nether-lands[2,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	126	145	166	114	114	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	85	150	199	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1972 1st quarter	114	139	142	143	114	106	207	149	*123*	*119*
2nd quarter	120	140	146	181	114	113	254	147	*120*	*120*
3rd quarter	125	124	148	192	117	121	265	141	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	130	101	145	176	114	117	237	132	*113*	*117*
1973 1st quarter	125	41	140	141	107	107	220	117	*108*	*110*
2nd quarter	127	107	144	187	103	133	263	106	*106*	*108*
3rd quarter	132	101	158	214	106	100	259	99	*105*	*108*
4th quarter	133	92	161	254	102	96	233	86	*104*	*102*
1974 1st quarter	130	54	164	258	102	86		96	*115*	*105*
2nd quarter				410				97	*114*	
1973 April	127	132	143	179	102	133	241	108	*108*	*107*
May	127	83	143	189	102		235	107	*106*	*110*
June	128	105	145	194	105		235	104	*105*	*108*
July	131	107	153	207	105	100	237	102	*103*	*107*
August	131	98	157	216	105		237	99	*103*	*110*
September	134	99	163	219	107		235	95	*108*	*106*
October	137	90	161	237	102	96	235	90	*100*	*106*
November	132	93	159	252	102		235	86	*104*	*104*
December	131	93	162	274	102		248	83	*107*	*96*
1974 January	130	78	164	228	105		270	94	*116*	*105*
February	130	39	164	252	105	86	267	97	*116*	*105*
March	130	46	162	295	102		270	96	*113*	*107*
April	132	108	162	385			265	96	*111*	
May				410				96	*115*	
June				435				99	*116*	
July								102		
Rate %	2.4	1.0	2.0	2.4	3.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	*5.2*	*1.0*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	+0.4	+2.9	+0.9	+58.7	+0.7	−10.0	+6.6	+3.1	*−0.9*	*+3.6*
On a year earlier	+3.7	−4.9	+16.1	+119.0	−4.4	−19.6	+9.8	−4.9	*+7.4*	*−3.7*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] Registered unemployed.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 3 **Exports (fob)** Special trade,[1] seasonally adjusted

US$ million[4]

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United King-dom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	16,386	24,340	153,152	*49,667*	*28,511*
1973	22,329	6,121	35,948	67,487	2,122	22,024	23,882	30,525	210,564	*71,465*	*36,786*
1972 1st quarter	3,582	1,056	5,913	11,025	369	4,368	3,945	6,044	36,302	*12,045*	*6,675*
2nd quarter	3,821	1,085	6,337	11,472	385	4,487	4,149	6,378	38,114	*11,676*	*6,656*
3rd quarter	3,919	1,055	6,445	11,270	413	4,556	4,025	5,389	37,072	*12,529*	*7,261*
4th quarter	4,290	1,136	7,082	12,420	436	5,165	4,267	6,529	41,325	*13,505*	*7,891*
1973 1st quarter	4,721	1,322	7,630	14,074	467	4,279	5,573	6,865	44,931	*15,335*	*8,266*
2nd quarter	5,273	1,409	8,665	16,106	509	5,170	5,872	7,672	50,676	*16,775*	*8,752*
3rd quarter	6,302	1,729	9,931	18,849	547	6,212	6,123	8,059	57,775	*18,318*	*9,336*
4th quarter	5,933	1,661	9,889	18,478	599	6,379	6,314	7,929	57,182	*20,409*	*10,432*
1974 1st quarter	6,294 (e)	1,806	10,627	20,674	585	6,362	7,074 (e)	8,326	61,708	*22,319*	*11,225*
2nd quarter			11,709 (e)	21,714 (e)				9,991		*24,220*	*13,899*
1973 April	1,761	419	2,673	5,122	162	1,454	1,793	2,530	15,914	*5,492*	*2,909*
May	1,740	494	2,891	5,550	172	1,685	2,027	2,459	17,018	*5,557*	*2,920*
June	1,772	496	3,101	5,434	175	2,031	2,052	2,683	17,744	*5,726*	*2,923*
July	2,007	593	3,369	6,008	179	2,147	2,069	2,652	19,024	*5,860*	*3,167*
August	2,170	485	3,228	6,456	185	1,966	1,960	2,660	19,110	*6,044*	*2,960*
September	2,125	651	3,334	6,385	183	2,098	2,094	2,747	19,617	*6,414*	*3,209*
October	2,102	563	3,311	6,766	201	2,054	2,259	2,653	19,909	*6,584*	*3,280*
November	1,885	532	3,394	6,474	186	1,958	2,148	2,703	19,274	*6,871*	*3,689*
December	1,946	566	3,184	5,239	212	2,367	1,912	2,573	17,999	*6,954*	*3,463*
1974 January	2,021	526	3,412	6,981	178	1,860	2,221	2,433	19,632 (e)	*7,111*	*3,578*
February	2,023 (e)	631	3,515	6,709	188	2,162	2,506 (e)	2,863	20,609 (e)	*7,606*	*3,767*
March	2,210 (e)	649	3,700	6,984	202	2,340	2,347 (e)	3,030	21,467 (e)	*7,674*	*3,880*
April		627	3,774	6,966	201 (e)	2,633 (e)	2,438 (e)	3,228		*8,234*	*4,295* (e)
May		638	3,800 (e)	8,142		2,075 (e)		3,344		*7,630*	*4,807* (e)
June			4,135 (e)	6,606 (e)				3,419		*8,356* (e)	*4,797* (e)
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+5.4	+11.1	+10.2	+5.0	+2.6	+10.3	+16.2	+20.0	+7.9	*+8.5*	*+23.8*
On a year earlier	+32.5	+40.0	+35.1	+34.8	+18.9	+61.3	+30.0	+30.2	+37.3	*+44.4*	*+58.8*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+9.2	+10.6	+10.2	+4.7	+2.6	+10.2	+15.4	+19.2	+13.9[3]	*+8.5*	*+23.4*
On a year earlier	+31.6	+39.6	+48.9	+31.9	+25.4	+78.7	+27.4	+37.3	+36.1	*+44.4*	*+68.8*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
[4] All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2,3]*	*Japan[2]*
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*36,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,971	26,665	39,783	2,113	19,284	17,142	27,831	152,692	*55,800*	*23,463*
1973	21,737	7,447	37,604	54,536	27,55	27,878	24,357	38,836	215,149	*69,105*	*38,316*
1972 1st quarter	3,573	1,185	6,354	9,435	495	4,458	4,095	6,848	36,443	*13,455*	*5,400*
2nd quarter	3,630	1,136	6,454	9,997	511	4,610	4,234	6,954	37,526	*13,200*	*5,456*
3rd quarter	3,721	1,301	6,606	9,836	511	4,895	4,233	6,530	37,633	*14,056*	*5,955*
4th quarter	3,979	1,349	7,251	10,515	596	5,321	4,580	7,499	41,090	*15,089*	*6,652*
1973 1st quarter	4,704	1,570	7,922	11,845	618	5,355	5,416	8,275	45,706	*16,136*	*7,355*
2nd quarter	5,241	1,753	9,004	13,168	657	6,700	5,687	9,426	51,636	*16,821*	*9,269*
3rd quarter	5 896	2,026	10,358	14,553	744	7,837	6,717	10,238	58,369	*17,433*	*10,122*
4th quarter	5,896	2,098	10,319	14,970	735	7,986	6,537	10,895	59,438	*18,680*	*11,570*
1974 1st quarter	6,580 (e)	2,364	11,317	15,224	846	9,385 (e)	7,285 (e)	12,095	65,052	*21,704*	*12,609*
2nd quarter			13,149	17,131				14,330		*25,160*	*14,755* (e)
1973 April	1,639	503	2,662	4,031	209	1,906	1,878	2,884	15,712	*5,356*	*2,881*
May	1,791	620	3,102	4,514	214	2,190	1,892	3,253	17,576	*5,700*	*3,093*
June	1,811	630	3,240	4,623	234	2,604	1,917	3,289	18,348	*5,765*	*3,290*
July	1,902	676	3,539	4,844	263	2,393	2,375	3,294	19,286	*5,821*	*3,256*
August	1,967	678	3,383	4,904	246	2,593	2,093	3,468	19,332	*5,991*	*3,587*
September	2,027	672	3,436	4,805	235	2,851	2,249	3,476	19,751	*5,621*	*3,279*
October	2,097	739	3,614	5,403	257	2,599	2,332	3,746	20,787	*5,969*	*3,621*
November	1,975	737	3,432	5,112	254	2,205	2,157	3,625	19,497	*6,628*	*3,840*
December	1,824	622	3,273	4,455	224	3,182	2,048	3,526	19,154	*6,083*	*4.109*
1974 January	2,024	784	3.510	5,116	240	2,393	2,398	3,502	19,960	*6,467*	*3,426*
February	2,139 (e)	770	3,823	4,738	270	3,372	2,436 (e)	4,130	21,663	*7,392*	*4,249*
March	2,417 (e)	810	3,984 (e)	5,370	336	3,620	2,451 (e)	4,463	23,429	*7,845*	*4,934*
April		858	4,279 (e)	5,119	337 (e)	4,069 (e)	2,340 (e)	4,567		*8,141*	*5,272*
May		724	4,545	6,390		2,930 (e)		4,833		*8,407*	*4,857*
June			4,325	5,622 (e)				4,930		*8,612* (e)	*4,626* (e)
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+11.6	+9.9	+16.2	+12.5	+31.3	+18.7	+9.5	+18.5	+9.4	*+15.9*	*+17.0*
On a year earlier	+39.9	+45.8	+46.0	+30.1	+49.2	+87.9	+29.9	+52.0	+42.3	*+49.6*	*+59.2*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+15.6	+9.6	+16.1	+11.9	+31.2	+18.5	+9.1	+17.7	+15.5[4]	*+15.9*	*+16.7*
On a year earlier	+38.9	+45.5	+60.9	+27.6	+57.4	+108.2	+27.3	+60.4	+41.8	*+49.6*	*+69.2*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] *fob.* [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated. Source: United Kingdom; Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on Current Account

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,726	− 57	2,627	65	− 682	3,432	*− 482*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1,609	−190	2,339	31	1,068	2,723	*−1,036*	*2,119*
1970	715	−544	− 152	731	−185	762	−518	1,661	2,470	*355*	*1,970*
1971	1,004	−422	525	317	205	1,570	−234	2,588	5,143	*−3,817*	*5,797*
1972	1,136	− 65	285	397	−162	1,451	1,051	221	4,314	*−9,807*	*6,623*
1973	1,082 (e)	−458		2,891		−2,526	1,719 (e)	−3,569		*667*	*−52*
1972 1st quarter	279	− 39	− 324	− 52		607	5	− 73		*−1,853*	*958*
2nd quarter	215	56	445	−125		699	267	476		*−2,473*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	− 36	− 3	−485		577	382	355		*−3,331*	*2,084*
4th quarter	407	− 46	167	1,060		−433	397	173		*−1,032*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	345	−147	− 191	613		−914	304	− 890		*− 266*	*482*
2nd quarter	226	−179	426	614		−839	632	− 471		*− 867*	*−402*
3rd quarter	200	69	−432	863		−330	− 17	− 603		*−1.045*	*115*
4th quarter	311 (e)	−201		961		−443	800 (e)	−1,165		*+2,845*	*−255*
1974 1st quarter				2,598				−2,257		*1,094*	*−3,262*

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics

TABLE 6 Export Unit Values of Manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Nether-lands[1]		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	91	91	96	85	88	96	92	92	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	95	95	97	90	92	93	95	95	97	97	93	93	*95*	*95*	*95*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	106	106	108	103	106	107	107	103	110	109	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	115	101	116	107	119	104	115	107	117	105	122	117	*105*	*115*	*98*
1973											130	127	*113*	*141*	*106*
1972 1st quarter	113	100	114	105	118	104	114	106	118	106	123	114	*104*	*112*	*96*
2nd quarter	117	103	114	105	118	104	114	106	117	105	125	116	*105*	*115*	*98*
3rd quarter	114	100	116	107	122	107	116	107	117	105	121	118	*104*	*116*	*99*
4th quarter	116	103	118	108	119	104	116	108	118	106	117	119	*106*	*119*	*102*
1973 1st quarter			127	111	128	105	120	111	126	107	122	121	*107*	*125*	*96*
2nd quarter			142	113	141	106	122	116	138	108	131	124	*110*	*138*	*101*
3rd quarter			153	115	165	107	132	121	156	113	133	129	*115*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter											134	135	*119*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter													*127*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+1.8	+3.0	+7.7	+1.8	+17.0	+0.9	+8.2	+4.3	+13.0	+4.6	+0.8	+4.7	*+6.7*	*+4.8*	*+9.3*
On a year earlier	+8.4	+4.0	+31.9	+7.5	+35.2	Nil	+13.8	+13.1	+33.3	+7.6	+14.5	+13.5	*+18.7*	*+29.4*	*+15.7*

(e) estimated. Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A'
[1] No quarterly series available for 1971.

TABLE 7 **Consumer prices** All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*[2]
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	124	120	119	132	123	125	128	*114*	*124*
1972 1st quarter	108	108	110	109	109	115	108	113	114	*106*	*108*
2nd quarter	109	109	112	110	110	117	109	115	116	*107*	*111*
3rd quarter	111	111	114	113	112	120	111	116	118	*108*	*111*
4th quarter	113	113	116	115	114	122	114	119	121	*109*	*113*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*116*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	120	133	124	126	129	*116*	*126*
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*131*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	135	132	139	*122*	*145*
2nd quarter	130			134	127		141	136	147	*125*	
1973 January	115	114	117	115	116		116	121	122	*110*	*114*
February	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*115*
March	116	115	119	116	117		119	122	124	*112*	*118*
April	116	116	120	117	118		120	124	126	*112*	*121*
May	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
June	117	117	123	119	120		123	125	128	*114*	*123*
July	118	117	124	120	120		124	125	128	*114*	*124*
August	118	117	124	121	119	133	124	126	129	*116*	*125*
September	119	118	126	122	120		125	127	130	*117*	*129*
October	120	118	127	123	121		126	128	132	*118*	*129*
November	120	119	129	125	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*130*
December	122	120	131	125	123		129	130	134	*119*	*135*
974 January	123	121	134	127	124		132	130	137	*120*	*141*
February	125	124	134	129	125	144	134	131	139	*122*	*146*
March	127	124	135	131	125		138	133	141	*123*	*147*
April	128	126	137	133	126		139	135	145	*124*	*151*
May	130	127	139	134	127	151	141	136	147	*125*	*151*
June	132			137	127		143	136	149	*126*	
July	134 (e)										
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+4.4	+3.5	+3.1	+4.3	+1.6	+4.9	+5.1	+3.2	+5.8	*+2.9*	*+6.4*
On a year earlier	+12.8	+8.7	+13.9	+13.8	+7.1	+16.2	+16.3	+8.8	+15.7	*+10.6*	*+24.0*

[1] Excluding rent. [2] Change of basis during period. (e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 8 **Value of retail sales** Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[6]	Netherlands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	107	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	120	125	125	121	123	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	129	148	152	131	139	*134*	*145*
1972 1st quarter	115	113	107	117	119	109	116	116	*114*	*111*
2nd quarter	117	118	108	118	122	115	120	119	*117*	*114*
3rd quarter	122	121	111	123	126	118	122	125	*120*	*120*
4th quarter	126	123	110	122	132	158	124	130	*125*	*124*
1973 1st quarter	133	128	112	130	141	123	128	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	134	129	116	128	147	141	130	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	135	137	114	128	149	140	132	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter	145	142	124	130	152	204	137	147	*137*	*156*
1974 1st quarter			127					148	*138*	
1973 January	132	127	112	127	137	115	126	131	*130*	*131*
February	135	128	113	133	145	113	130	135	*132*	*134*
March	134	128	111	128	143	141	127	139	*134*	*139*
April	130	128	111	129	142	142	124	131	*132*	*138*
May	135	127	120	129	148	144	130	132	*133*	*139*
June	137	134	115	127	151	142	130	136	*132*	*141*
July	133	135	114	129	143	143	129	138	*137*	*145*
August	133	137	113	128	158	123	133	139	*135*	*145*
September	139	139	116	128	147	161	132	141	*136*	*151*
October	144	141	126	132	151	183	137	146	*138*	*153*
November	144	141	120	129	155	177	135	147	*137*	*159*
December	148	143	124	129	151	253	138	149	*135*	*155*
1974 January		142	129	135	154			147	*137*	*160*
February		146	127	135	167			150	*138*	*156*
March		145	126					152	*140*	
April									*142*	
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+7.4	+1.9	+2.4	+2.6	+4.2	+45.7	+3.8	+1.4	*+2.6*	*+1.7*
On a year earlier	+15.0	+12.5	+13.4	+4.2	+15.1	+29.1	+10.5	+10.4	*+5.6*	*+20.5*

[1] Department stores. [2] Department and chainstores. [3] Excluding West Berlin. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Revised series, including chainstores.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2]	France[3]	German F.R.[7,] †	Ireland[3]	Italy[8]	Nether-lands[4]	United Kingdom†	*United States[5]*	*Japan[6] †*
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	116	116	113	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	127	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147					154	142	143	*121*	*163*
1971 1st quarter	107	108	104	108	110	109	107	108	*104*	*108*
2nd quarter	110	114	107	109	114	111	110	111	*106*	*111*
3rd quarter	112	117	110	113	118	114	114	112	*106*	*116*
4th quarter	115	121	113	112	122	116	116	115	*108*	*117*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	120	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	129	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	135	126	126	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	128	130	145	137	137	134	*118*	*146*
2nd quarter	144	147	133	135	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	152	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	153			141	168	168	148	149	*124*	*175*
1974 1st quarter				142			158		*125*	*173*
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.7	+3.4	+3.7	+0.7	+2.4	+4.3	+6.8	+3.8	*+0.8*	*−1.1*
On a year earlier	+15.9	+16.9	+13.5	+9.2	+20.0	+29.2	+15.3	+13.4	*+5.9*	*+19.3*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Earnings in industry and construction. [2] Including bonuses. [3] Earnings [4] Hourly earnings industry: males. [5] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker.
[6] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers. [7] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings.
[8] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.
Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reihe 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and United Kingdom ('Department of Employment Gazette').

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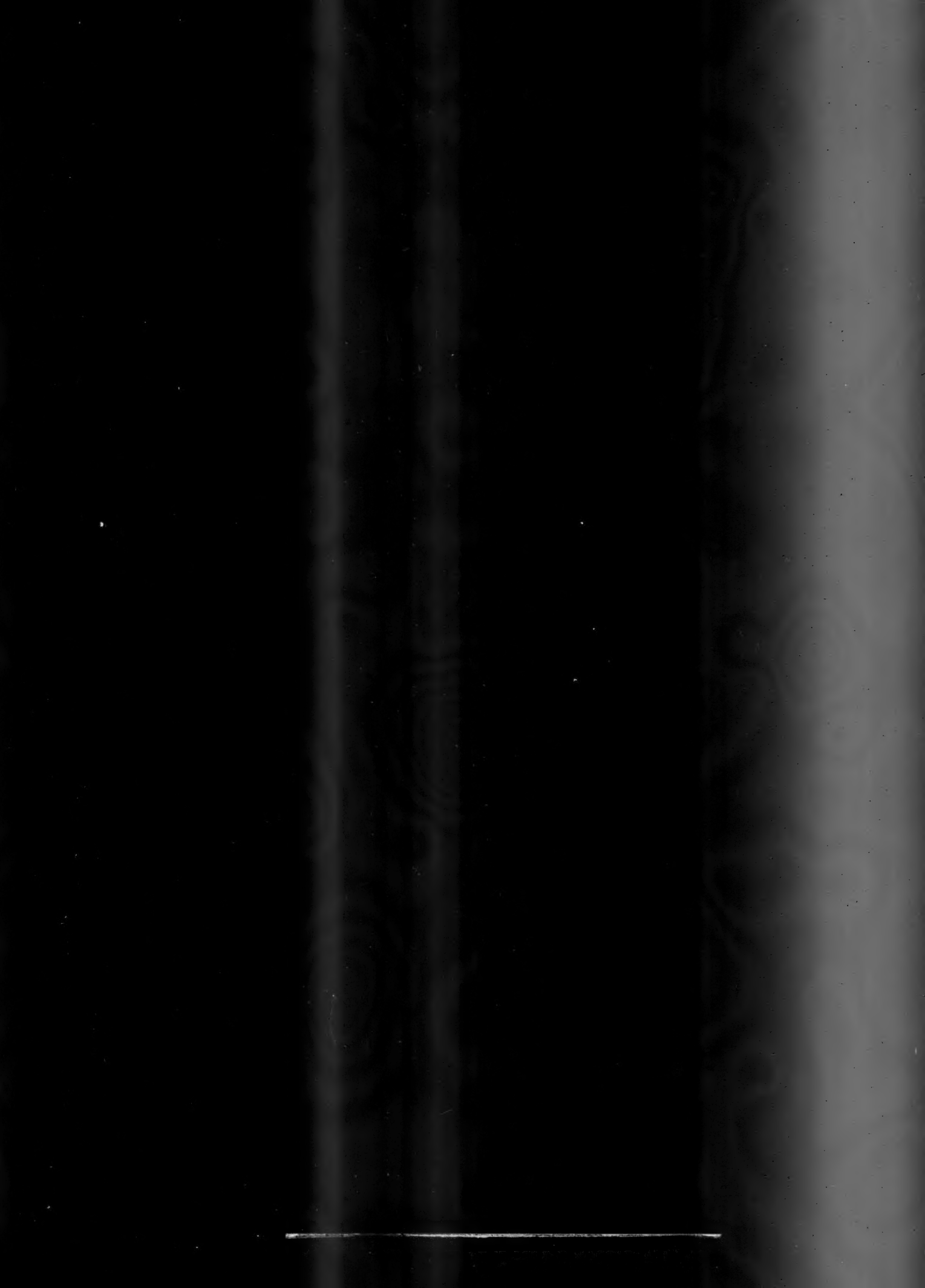
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